

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-40 (cancelled)

41. (currently amended) A communications system for communicating between an information provider and users at client computers on a computer network, the system comprising:

a satellite receiver operating to receive download data from the information provider;

a plurality of client computers on a computer network, each of said client computers including first network hardware and first network software for communication with the computer network, each of said client computers also including application software for communications with the information provider;

a server computer, including second network hardware and second network software for communications with the computer network, in electronic communication with said satellite receiver and in electronic communication with the computer network, said server computer operating to receive the download data from said satellite receiver and operating to route the download data to said plurality of client computers for use by the application software on each of said client computers, irrespective of said client computers' operating systems such that said server computer does not require the same operating system for each of said client computers, via the computer network;

and said computer network connected to said plurality of client computers and connected to said server computer whereby said server computer provides routing for the download data to said plurality of client computers.

42. (previously presented) The communications system as defined in claim 41 wherein said computer network is a local area network.

43. (previously presented) The communications system as defined in claim 41 wherein said computer network is a wide area network.

44. (previously presented) The communications system as defined in claim 42 wherein said server computer is programmed to route the download data to said plurality of client computers on the local area network irrespective of the client computers' operating systems such that said server computer does not require the same operating system for each client computer of the plurality of client computers.

45. (previously presented) The communications system as defined in claim 42 further comprising a storage medium wherein said server computer's routing of the download data includes storing the download data on said storage medium.

46. (previously presented) The communications system as defined in claim 45 wherein said storage medium is included in said server computer.

47. (previously presented) The communications system as defined in claim 45 wherein said storage medium is an intermediate storage medium and wherein the download data is stored on said intermediate storage medium prior to receipt of the download data by said plurality of client computers.

48. (previously presented) The communications system as defined in claim 47 wherein said intermediate storage medium includes a cache.

49. (previously presented) The communications system as defined in claim 42 wherein said server computer runs a server operating system.
50. (previously presented) The communications system as defined in claim 49 wherein said server operating system is a Linux-based operating system.
51. (previously presented) The communications system as defined in claim 49 wherein said server operating system is a Unix-based operating system.
52. (previously presented) The communications system as defined in claim 49 wherein said server operating system is a Netware-based operating system.
53. (previously presented) The communications system as defined in claim 49 wherein said server operating system is a Microsoft Windows-based operating system.
- 54 (previously presented) The communications system as defined in claim 49 wherein said server operating system is a Microsoft Windows NT-based operating system.
55. (previously presented) The communications system as defined in claim 42 wherein said server computer routes the download data using a standard local area network protocol.
56. (previously presented) The communications system as defined in claim 42 wherein the system provides bi-directional electronic communications between said plurality of client computers on the local area network and the information provider, the electronic communications including both the reception of the download data and transmission of upload data, and wherein the system further comprises a communications device in electronic communications with said server computer.

57. (previously presented) The communications system as defined in claim 56 wherein said plurality of client computers send the upload data to the information provider by the upload data being sent to said server computer by said plurality of client computers through the local area network, the upload data being provided to said communications device by said server computer, and the upload data being sent to the information provider via said communications device.

58. (previously presented) The communications system as defined in claim 42 comprising a plurality of local area networks wherein said server computer operates to route the download data to said plurality of local area networks.

59. (currently amended) A server computer for communicating between a global communications network and client computers on a computer network, the server computer comprising:

network hardware for connecting said server computer to the computer network;
communications hardware for enabling electronic communications with a satellite receiver;

a processor; and
a computer readable medium containing:
network instructions for communications between said server computer and the computer network;

satellite instructions for communications between said server computer and the satellite receiver;

router instructions, said router instructions operating to receive download data from the global communications network and operating to route the download data to a

plurality of client computers connected to a local area network, irrespective of said client computers' operating systems such that said server computer does not require the same operating system for each of said client computers; and

wherein said network instructions, said satellite instructions and said router instructions are executable by said processor

60. (previously presented) The server computer as defined in claim 59 wherein said computer network is a local area network.

61. (previously presented) The server computer as defined in claim 59 wherein said computer network is a wide area network.

62. (previously presented) The server computer as defined in claim 60 wherein said router instructions route the download data to said plurality of client computers on the local area network irrespective of the client computers' operating systems such that said server computer does not require the same operating system for each client computer of the plurality of client computers.

63. (previously presented) The server computer as defined in claim 60 further comprising a storage medium wherein said server computer's routing of the download data includes storing the download data on said storage medium.

64. (previously presented) The server computer as defined in claim 63 wherein said storage medium is included in said server computer.

65. (previously presented) The server computer as defined in claim 63 wherein said storage medium is an intermediate storage medium and wherein the download data is stored on said intermediate storage medium prior to receipt of the download data by said plurality of client computers.

66. (previously presented) The server computer as defined in claim 65 wherein said intermediate storage medium includes a cache.

67. (previously presented) The server computer as defined in claim 60 wherein said server computer runs a server operating system.

68. (previously presented) The server computer as defined in claim 67 wherein said server computer routes the download data using a standard local area network protocol.

69. (previously presented) The server computer as defined in claim 60 wherein said server computer operates to route the download data to a plurality of local area networks.

70. (currently amended) A server computer for providing access to a global communications network for a plurality of client computers on a computer network, the server computer comprising:

a network interface;

a satellite receiver interface;

a processor; and

at least one storage device, said storage device containing:

a network driver;

a satellite driver; and

router instructions, said router instructions operating to receive download data from the global communications network through a satellite receiver and through the satellite receiver interface and operating to route the download data to a plurality of client computers connected to a computer network through the network interface, irrespective of said client computers' operating systems such that said server computer does not

require the same operating system for each of said client computers, and wherein said router instructions are executable by said processor.

71. (currently amended) A server computer for providing access to a global communications network for a plurality of client computers on a computer network, the server computer comprising:

a network interface;

a satellite receiver interface;

a processor; and

non-volatile memory, said non-volatile memory containing:

a network driver;

a satellite driver; and

router instructions, said router instructions operating to receive download data from the global communications network through a satellite receiver and through the satellite receiver interface and operating to route the download data to a local area network connected to a plurality of client computers through the network interface, irrespective of said client computers' operating systems such that said server computer does not require the same operating system for each of said client computers, and wherein said router instructions are executable by said processor.

72. (currently amended) A method for providing access to a global communications network for a plurality of client computers on a computer network, which comprises:

receiving download data from a satellite receiver in electronic communication with a server computer; and

routing the download data from the server computer to the plurality of client computers connected to the computer network, irrespective of said client computers' operating systems such that said server computer does not require the same operating system for each of said client computers.

73. (currently amended) A computer-readable medium containing instructions for providing access to a global communications network for a plurality of client computers on a computer network, wherein the instructions comprise executable instructions for implementing a method comprising:

receiving download data from a satellite receiver in electronic communication with a server computer; and

routing the download data to the plurality of client computers, each of which is electrically connected to a computer network, irrespective of said client computers' operating systems such that said server computer does not require the same operating system for each of said client computers, via the computer network.